

CANAL—MISSISSIPPI TO LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

Transmitting information relative to making

A Canal

BETWEEN

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN.

DECEMBER 18, 1826.

Read, and referred to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

WASHINGTON :

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1826.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

December 14, 1826.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith a report from the Chief Engineer, of this date, and beg leave to refer to it for such information as can be afforded by this Department relative to the plan and estimates for making a Canal between the river Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain, which I was directed to communicate to the House of Representatives, by a resolution of the House which passed yesterday.

I have the honor to be, sir, with great respect, your most obedient servant,

JAMES BARBOUR.

The Hon. JOHN W. TAYLOR,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

ENGINEER DEPARTMENT,

December 14, 1826.

SIR: Pursuant to your instructions to me to furnish such information as may be in this Department relative to the plan and estimates for making a Canal between the river Mississippi and Lake Pontchartrain, with a view to its being communicated to the House of Representatives, in fulfilment of the object of the resolution on the subject, which passed the House yesterday, I have the honor to make the following report.

In the annual report of this Department for this year, it has been stated that, although in the annual report of last year the project for a Canal to connect Lake Pontchartrain with the Mississippi was mentioned as an object that would probably engage the early attention of the Board for Internal Improvement, it had not been commenced in consequence of the entire occupation of the time of the Board in completing their reports relative to the National Road between the Seat of Government and New Orleans and the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

Since the date of the annual report of this year, one of the members of the Board for Internal Improvement has commenced the project and estimate for the Canal in question, and is now progressing with it simultaneously with a project for the defence of Savannah, and a report relative to a recent examination contemplating the selection of the most eligible mail route between Baltimore and Philadelphia.

The first and last of the objects above stated, may be completed in the course of next month and the remaining one; the project for the defence of Savannah may be completed by the middle of February

next, should the Board not be required in the mean time to proceed to the South to make the requisite examinations relative to routes for the Florida Canal, a Canal to connect the Coosa with the Tennessee river, and a Canal to overcome the obstruction to the navigation of the Tennessee river at the Muscle Shoals, and to attend to other duties which they will be required to perform when in that section of the country.

Respectfully submitted,

ALEX. MACOMB,
Maj. Gen. Chief Eng.

The Hon. J. BARBOUR,
Secretary of War.